GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5001
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2007
ORGANIC FARMING
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme to encourage processing, preserving and certification of food items produced from Organic Farming; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes provides financial assistance to food processing industries including units manufacturing food items produced from Organic Farming. However, an Organic Farming cell in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has been setup to implement a new scheme namely " National Project on Organic Farming" for production, promotion, market development and certification of organic products. A number of horticulture products like fresh and processed vegetables and fruits and also tea, coffee, spices, oil seeds and pulses etc. will be promoted under the project.

In addition, the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) being implemented by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industries includes the following programme:-

(i) Framing the National Standards for Organic Production and Certification Scheme.

(ii) Laying down procedures for export of certified Organic Products.

(iii) Accreditation of certifying agencies.

(iv) Updation of NPOP documents.

(v) Introduction of Group Certification, Awareness programme through training.